

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0168

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: REPORT ON WORLD OIL CRISIS AND THE
ALLIANCE.

REF: USNATO 6246

BEGIN SUMMARY:

ECONADS ON JANUARY 14 TOOK FIRST LOOK AT DRAFT REPORT
TO COUNCIL ON WORLD OIL CRISIS AND THE ALLIANCE. UK
DISTRIBUTED LIST OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS, AND RECOMMENDED
THAT ECONAD REPORT INCLUDE A SECTION ON US ENERGY
INITIATIVE. BELGIUM AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SUPPORTED
THIS RECOMMENDATION. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON DRAFT
REPORT PRIOR TO RESUMPTION OF ECONAD DISCUSSION ON JAN.
17. WE RECOMMEND US SUPPLY LANGUAGE RE US ENERGY INITIATIVE
FOR DRAFT REPORT, WHOSE TIMING (TRANSMISSION TO COUNCIL
BY END OF JANUARY) PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLIED
DISCUSSION PRIOR TO WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 11. END SUMMARY.
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1. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 14 HAD AN INITIAL
DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REPORT ON THE WORLD OIL CRISIS AND
THE ALLIANCE (AC/127-WP/373), WHICH AFTER ECONAD APPROVAL,
WILL SERVE AS BASIS OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT.

2. UK DISTRIBUTED A LIST OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS, WHICH FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. UK REP. SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE DRAFT REPORT, BELIEVES THAT THE OIL CRISIS DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE ALLIANCE, AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO COUNCIL DISCUSSION. UK TOOK THIS VIEW, HE NOTED, WITHOUT LESSENING UK SUPPORT FOR OECD AS PRINCIPAL WESTERN MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION ON OIL MATTERS.

3. UK REP. STATED THAT LONDON BELIEVES THE DRAFT REPORT SHOULD COVER, UNDER PART III, SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR ENERGY ACTION GROUP, AND THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE. BELGIUM SUPPORTED THIS SUGGESTION. TURKISH REP. POINTED OUT THAT THE PRELIMINARY REACTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO THE US INITIATIVE IS FAVORABLE, BUT HE ASKED HOW IT COULD BE INCLUDED IN REPORT, SINCE MANY GOVERNMENTS DO NOT YET HAVE A POSITION. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THOUGHT THE REPORT HAD TO INCLUDE DESCRIPTION OF US INITIATIVE AND SOME COMMENT.

4. BELGIAN REP. THOUGHT THAT MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE POINT THE REPORT SHOULD UNDERLINE IS NEED FOR COLLABORATION AMONG ALLIES ON ENERGY CRISIS. HE THOUGH REPORT SHOULD CONTAIN A SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTING KEY POINTS. HE ALSO WANTED MORE IN THE REPORT ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON ALLIES INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. NORWAY WANTED MORE ON CONSEQUENCES OF INCREASED ENERGY COSTS ON STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRY IN MEMBER COUNTRIES, PATTERN OF TRADE, AND TRANSPORT OF COMMODITIES.

5. OTHER DELEGATIONS WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. ECONAD DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REPORT WILL RESUME JANUARY 17. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STATED HIS HOPE THAT ECONADS WILL COMPLETE WORK AND TRANSMIT DOCUMENT TO COUNCIL BY END OF JANUARY.

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BEGIN COMMENT MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE PRIOR TO JAN. 17 MEETING. IN ADDITION TO SUGGESTIONS IN REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE THAT US SHOULD PROPOSE LANGUAGE ON US ENERGY INITIATIVE, WITH COMMENT, FOR INCLUSION IN ECONAD REPORT. TIMING OF TRANSMISSION OF REPORT TO COUNCIL (END OF JANUARY) AND OF CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON (FEBRUARY 11) OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO USE THIS REPORT AS VEHICLE TO ENCOURAGE ALLIED COLLABORATION RE ENERGY CRISIS AND TO AVOID MEMBER STATE ACTIONS CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 2 OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.
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